



The Acorn

*Serving the South Sound Chapter of the
Washington Native Plant Society*

Fall 2008

A Summer Plant Excursion to Oregon and Nevada

By Kevin Head

Walking the land has been a passion of mine for years. There is no finer activity than to walk for miles in mountain air with bountiful fields of flowers. As a teacher, I have used my summers to explore wild Washington and other western environs. It is with great honor that I share this passion with my partner Julia Brayshaw. This year was no exception.

From June 19 to July 2, we explored four mountain ranges in southeastern Oregon and northern Nevada. These ranges are in the northern, moistest part of the basin and range. With Washington under a blanket of snow, California dry and ready to burn, and Colorado and Utah snow covered, we headed to these places not often visited in mid-June. Our travel covered 14 days in which we took 18 day hikes and walked over 140 miles. We had hoped to backpack but the upper mountains were snowed-in, limiting our hiking opportunities.

The Pueblo mountain range in southeastern Oregon is south of Steens Mountain and extends into northern Nevada. It is a Wilderness Study Area that deserves wilderness status. The trails are old mining roads or desert paths. Our first hike up Arizona Canyon led us into wet meadows of *Iris missouriensis* and other meadows of *Allium*, and *Balsamorhiza*. As we crested a pass, we had outstanding views of a wall of 7500-foot red peaks and the Alvord Desert.

A front was approaching as we neared Ten Cent Meadow. Here, in the beautiful juniper forests, rain began to fall. The lightning strikes and intermittent rain showers unloaded all around us. We huddled in the forest waiting out the storm. Later, we witnessed the storm over Alvord Lake and the Alvord Desert. The

next day, we heard that it had started 800 wildfires in California.

We took one other major hike up a sometimes sketchy desert trail in Denino Canyon. This canyon has beautiful willows and aspens rich with bird songs. The songs carried us along and made us stand still in admiration for the variety and chorus of beautiful voices. Yellow Warblers, Yellow Chats, Warbling Vireos, Solitary Vireos and Red-eyed Vireos all were singing that June morning. In the higher sagebrush reaches, we saw our first *Calochortus* of the year. Turner calls *Calochortus bruneaunis* rare, but in this canyon it was plentiful and beautiful. We also saw nice displays of *Camissonia tanacetifolia* in drier sagebrush and *Mimulus guttatus* with *Aquilegia formosa* in higher streams. The upper slopes were washed in *Balsamorhiza*.

We left Oregon and drove south and east to

Paradise, Nevada. Here the Santa Rosa/ Paradise Mountains run north and south. The area is known for wildflowers but is not considered a "destination" because there are few lakes. Guidebooks say there are no subalpine meadows, but the area is filled with meadows.

Our Prius got us within a quarter mile of the Singas Trailhead where we set up camp. The road allowed us to smell the beautiful aroma of *Prunus virginiana*. The trails

led up through beautiful displays of sagebrush intermixed with *Castilleja* leaving us with sunlit images of paintbrush meadows. *Lupinus arbutus* covered northern slopes and many trails. Our major hike took us south over the drainage of three creeks to a pass looking over the endless fault-block mountain ranges of Nevada. The trail was damaged, but passable. The



Pueblo Mountains -- Calochortus bruneaunis

Photo: Kevin Head

air had now turned hazy as California wildfire smoke started to make its way across hundreds of miles of mountain ranges and basins. Except for the Jarbidge area and northern Oregon on our way back home, the smoke stayed with us for our entire trip.

After two days in the Santa Rosas, we re-supplied ourselves in Winnemucca and Elko and headed into the Rubies. The Ruby Mountains are spectacular and may be compared to Yosemite. The range has many 11,000-foot snow-capped peaks and a long glacially carved valley. We drove into Lamoille Canyon only to find it winter-like and full of people. We were fortunate to meet a worker who directed us 50 miles south to a less used part of the Ruby Range. Hamilton Pass is on the spine of the Rubies and has a nice road used only by locals. We camped near the pass and hiked the next day to the 9,800-foot level of Green Mountain. The whole road was a meadow of stunning *Lupinus arbutus* and *Balsamorhiza*.

After a few days in the , we headed north through a portion of Idaho to the lonely, yet incredible, Jarbidge, Nevada and the Jarbidge Wilderness. The wilderness is the moistest area of Nevada and is home to some of the cleanest air in the country. It is one of 20 spots in the country where air quality is monitored for standards of clean air. The smoke from California does not seem to appear there. This small canyon town has one motel and restaurant/bar. It houses the best food I've seen in Nevada and the cheapest showers (\$2 with towel) and laundry (\$1 wash, \$ 1 dry) and the best homemade ice cream (could anyone transport commercial ice cream that far without it melting?). There we met Bob Pyle's boyhood butterfly friend who was exploring the butterflies in the area.

We did three distinctive and wonderful day hikes in the Jarbidge Wilderness. The first, up Jarbidge Canyon, opens to a beautiful, wide valley housing a unique combination of low growing subalpine fir, white-barked pine, aspen and black cottonwood, all with meadows of flowers. We got snowed out near one of the few lakes of the area, but this was overall an enjoyable hike. The second day we did an unplanned and difficult 22-mile loop hike down into Slide Canyon, down the east fork of Jarbidge River and up a 3,000-foot ridge to our vehicle. This hike was drier and less interesting until we reached the higher portions of the ridge where we encountered acres of a yellow lupine. This hike would have been better a week earlier. We also started too low, but the higher ridges were excellent.

The last day hike started in Hummingbird Springs



and lead along a ridge to meadows and nice viewpoints. It also was the first occasion with mosquitoes and made us climb away from a wet meadow to a peak shoulder. We entered many meadows of lupine and *Wyethia helianthoides* and saw nice displays of hawks and golden eagles.

Where are the hikers that appreciate the wilderness? We like to hike in areas that are not used by many people. It seems that the ATV people ride to the trails and turn around at the wilderness boundaries. With gas concerns and people not knowing places that are special, the trails get less use. Our natural areas need to be observed and appreciated by all kinds of people. For me the value of hiking the land means completeness and health.

I encourage each of us to find those special places to be part of one's journey in life.

Plant and Seed Sales

Central Puget Sound Chapter's Annual Native Bulb, Seed, and Plant Sale Saturday, October 25, 10-4

The Central Puget Sound Chapter will hold their annual fall Native Bulb, Seed, and Plant Sale in Building 30 at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th Street, Seattle. The fall sale features camas and other lily bulbs as well as a big selection of native seeds, trees, shrubs, other plants and native plant books. The list of species will be posted at www.wnps.org. Because not all plant orders can be filled by our suppliers, the list is updated right up to the time of the sale. For more information, contact sale chair Janka Hobbs at MJCT_Hobbs@msn.com. Come early for the best selection!

...continued on next page

Plant and Seed Sales continued...

Magnuson Park is located on Sand Point Way. From I-5 north bound take the WA-520 east bound; exit at Montlake left towards University of Washington; go straight into NE 45th St., which turns into Sand Point Way NE. Magnuson park is approximately two miles along Sand Point Way.

Chase Garden Fall Plant Sale Saturday, Sept 20 & Sunday, Sept 21, 10-3

The plant sale will be held at 16015 - 264th St E., Orting, WA. The fall sale features native wildflowers, ferns, cyclamen and more. There will be multiple vendors. Carpooling is recommended. Admission to the garden is free at the sale. For more information, call 206-242-4040, or visit website www.chasegarden.org

Conservation Issues

Farming and the Environment: Building a New Relationship

By Bill Brookreson

Having worked for the Washington State Department of Agriculture for 32 years, I had the opportunity to work closely not only with the agricultural community but also with the environmental community on a host of issues ranging from water and salmonids to invasive species and biodiversity. In those interactions in a variety of venues, two things impressed me most. First, how often each group spoke of the other with disdain and; secondly, how many common interests they in fact shared.

Feeding a world population that is growing not only in size but also in expectations while preserving an increasingly fragile and threatened environment may well be the greatest challenge of the 21st century. It is not just a "local" issue either. When Brazilian rainforests are burned to produce soybeans, it impacts us. When China dumps toxic waste into its rivers that irrigate food we import, it impacts us. When world water tables continue to fall as too much water is drawn out for irrigation and people, it impacts us. We are already seeing food riots in parts of the world. Whether we like it, are merely alarmed by it, or decry it, the world is a small place. We are all in the same lifeboat.

We would probably all agree that we like to know how our food was produced and who produced it. There has been a growing movement of support for fresh, local products that do not consume large amounts of fuel for transportation. From a quality of life perspective, the open spaces and local communities that agriculture helps preserve are important to us all – farmers and environmentalists alike. We are already held captive by our reliance on foreign fuels. We cannot afford to be held captive to feed our families; yet we appear to be moving in that direction.

That is not to try to imply that the interest of farmers and the agricultural community will ever be congruent. For farmers, farming is a business and without some measure of profitability, they will not remain in the business. That becomes an especially critical issue in areas like the Skagit Valley where wonderful agricultural land is under tremendous pressure for

development, with soaring land values. Members of the environmental community view stewardship of the land and our ecosystems as a core value but realize that farms and agriculture, however imperfect, are far better than strip malls and big box-stores for the environment. For WNPS, our core value is protection of our native plant ecosystems.

WNPS and other environmental organizations wrestle with the issues and the answers are not easy. How do we deal with livestock grazing on public lands? How do we equitably distribute water among farms, fish and people? To what degree should we regulate without driving our agricultural lands into developers' hands? How we answer these, and many more, will determine much about the future of the Washington we know and love.

We must realize that we are all stewards together of our land and environment. From the environmental side, we need to support those that are "doing it right." Several years ago, the late Vim Wright from the environmental community and Peter Goldmark from agriculture helped form a group called *Farming and the Environment* with that very goal in mind. Each year, in Vim's memory, they award the Vim Wright Stewardship Award to a farmer who combines good agricultural practices with good environmental stewardship. The 2006 winner was Nash Huber. Nash owns and operates Nash's Organic Produce in the Dungeness Valley near Sequim. The 350 acres of farmland, partly purchased with help from the PCC (Puget Consumer Cooperative) Farmland Fund, is a major supplier of organic produce to western Washington markets. The 2007 award winner will be named in early September (see <http://www.farmingandtheenvironment.org/> for stories of the winners). We need more people of good will who are more interested in struggling with solutions than promoting confrontation if we are to succeed in preserving and supporting both.

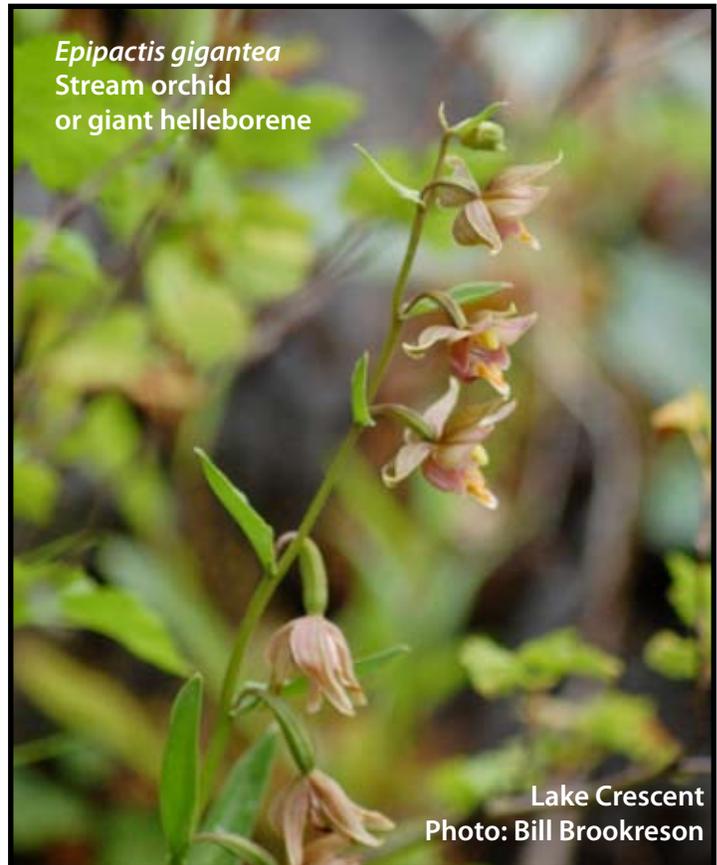
Your comments or responses are invited for future newsletters.

Regional Activities

Botany Washington, July 25-27

Botany Washington (BOTWA) 2008 was spent on the Olympic Peninsula on the shores of Lake Crescent and the surrounding Olympic Mountains. Botany Washington has a smaller group of attendees (30-40) than the WNPS Study Weekend. Although it was originally aimed at the "Hitchcock carrying botanist" or those aspiring to be one, its appeal has increased in recent years to include more general plant enthusiasts. The 2008 Botany Washington was coordinated by Fred Weinmann and members of the WNPS - Olympic Peninsula Chapter. The weekend featured the spectacular and diverse flora of the Olympic Peninsula from sea level to the heights of Mount Townsend in the Olympics. The Olympic Mountains and the peninsula coastline is a rich botanical area with a large number of endemics, many of which were in bloom.

Accommodations and meals were provided at the historic Rosemary Inn operated by the Olympic Institute on Lake Crescent. The weekend also featured good speakers, good wine and good fellowship both at the Rosemary Inn and on the trails. We were particularly pleased to be joined by Dr. Adolf and Oluna Cheska, eminent botanists, from British Columbia.



South Sound Activity

Natural Areas Stewardship Training to be Held in Pierce County Fridays, January 16 through March 27, 2009

In 2009, Washington Native Plant Society members and other citizens wishing to be more effective leaders in habitat restoration activities will have an opportunity to participate in Natural Areas Stewardship Training. Collaborating entities include the Washington Native Plant Society, the Green Tacoma Partnership, the Cascade Land Conservancy, the Pierce Conservation District and the City of Tacoma.

Up to 25 candidates will be selected to participate in this free 11-week intensive course to take place on consecutive Fridays at the Tacoma Nature Center. Depending upon enrollment requests, up to 5 five candidates may be allowed to participate from outside of Pierce County. We plan to feature approximately 35 of the region's best-known native plant, habitat restoration, horticulture and planning experts for a fun and engaging program! People selected to participate in the 100 hours of training also agree to commit to the return of 100 hours of volunteer time towards personal and designated community projects that benefit members of the Green Tacoma Partnership.

To learn more about the Natural Areas Stewardship Training, or to obtain an application for the program, please visit the website: <http://www.wnps.org/npsp/npsp.htm>, or contact Anna Thurston, 2009 Training www.ssstewardship.org, or contact Anna Thurston, Contract Coordinator, at 253-566-3342 or by email at: anna.thurston@ssstewardship.org.

**Submission of applications to participate in the
2009 Natural Areas Stewardship Training
is set for November 3, 2008.**

Implementation of the WNPS/GTP Natural Areas Stewardship Training is made possible with a grant from *The Green Partnership Fund* provided by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and the Pierce Conservation District.

Do Botanists Take Summer Vacation?

By Anna Thurston

It's barely August as I prepare this article. Already, I can feel the sun sinking to a lower arc in the sky as the hours of the season's days lessen for work and wandering outside. Without coddling, a typically extended dry spell has rendered my lawn golden and crunchy despite unusual rains that interrupt the heat. It's hard to have faith that it will revive once fall rains return. Along our highways, I have even seen the weeds wilting. Colder than usual weather has kept parts of my vegetable garden from being extraordinary, but the chill has brought other benefits (more peas in particular). I imagine that higher fuel prices will encourage more people to dig into gardening of some sort – an activity enjoyed by nearly ninety million Americans who spend an average of \$500 a year to enhance their yards and their diets. The changes in the season and the changes in our lives have created both unexpected "good" and "bad." In an effort towards optimism, I look for things that make all of it worth while.

I have enjoyed driving less, in addition to competing with fewer cars on the road. I do worry that volunteers will find it harder to get to where they are needed - unless we can manage a way to get them there, or make "there" closer to existing bus lines. I have felt more appreciation for the wild places when I get there since less driving means more time appreciating. I'm also grateful for the reduction of RV's, TV's and heavy-to-haul generators arriving at these places.

These roads have led me to new and familiar plants and places in the Olympics and what remains of our low land forests and prairies. Whether sauntering on my own in a local park or with fellow WNPS members and botanists from around the state, I have enjoyed Nature more than I can recall. This year's Botany Washington adventure had nearly 50 folks scaling the ridges of Mt. Olympus and rail lines along Lake Crescent on one day, and then sloshing through salty marshes or alpine bogs and wetlands on another. Some of us even found ourselves in the hot springs where the study of iridescent blue-green algae made perfect sense while sitting in the sulfur-laden water. In all of these places, there were plants in bloom (or beyond) - each special to the place, each telling stories of habitat and history.

While looking through a collection of toll-booth quarters, I noticed how many of them were dedicated to plants, Nature or history. It seems the "Feds" have taken advantage of some pretty innocuous "real estate"

to impart a history lesson. What better way,

I thought, to keep us all acquainted with our neighbors in all 50 states than by defining what makes each place special. Such important stories surround us. This discovery challenged me to think of other venues where important stories about our natural heritage and history might find an expression. Can we be creative enough to package the importance of our educational messages in ways that add to their intrinsic value? Can we find a ways to convey the sometimes somber nature of our stories to give them lasting power and enduring meaning for every generation?

The challenge of sharing the WNPS story helps keep me in the role of Chair for the South Sound Chapter. I had help hanging onto this position, both in the form of a new computer for use by volunteers (funded from Study Weekend profits, but not yet purchased) and an office with comfortable furnishings in which to use it (not quite yet available). A better portion of my reason to stay is the people who have helped to make our chapter so vibrant, and, with this year's Study Weekend, more prosperous than ever (I look forward to seeing how far our dollars can go!).

Thanks are due for the continued involvement of people who help to create the experiences that our chapter offers: **Mary Henry** and **Margaret Purcell** have skillfully taken our stories and transformed them into graphically pleasing publications. **Bill Brookreson** has managed to keep stories and projects coming, while keeping his own hands in the dirt. **Lee Fellenberg** has been telling tall tales while keeping us on-line (check out the WNPS-SSC website that he manages at www.southsoundchapterwnps.org). WNPS Stewards, like **Reba Olsen**, **Michael Deckert**, **Susan Dowling**, **MaryLynn Abe**, **Jeannette Matthews**, **Brianna Charbonnel** and **John Neorr** have been helping behind the scenes. **John Neorr** has been pulling together our next slate of speakers for both Olympia and Tacoma, while also planning for a great display at the Puyallup Fair! **Kevin Head** has contributed mightily, and also had his photo selected for this year's *Native Plant Appreciation Week* poster.

Sue Summers, who works with Portfolio Strategies in Tacoma, has not only kept a clear handle on our finances, but has secured a donation of office furnishings for us after an office upgrade. This will make a difference to our sense of order as well as our sense of place. **Dan & Pat Montague** and **Helen Hepp** know

Chair Report concluded...

how to keep the food (and chocolate) coming when we meet for meals or meetings with excellent snacks. I would be remiss if I neglected to mention **Catherine Hovanic** and **Linda Ellis** whose support for the State office helps keep my boat afloat. But, even more of you out there, members and supporters. **Dave Scoggins**, **June Colloff**, **Karen Fisher** and **Byrna Klavano** come to mind for their support in the office and field with WNPS displays. I am certain there are more of you whom I have neglected to name. Like them, we hope you will join us, not just to watch, but as an active volunteer. Each person has a part! We could use the support of someone organizing summer field trips.

Like assembling a 5,000-piece puzzle, I am drawn to the challenge of bringing all of the puzzle pieces together to make more than just a picture--a self-sustained organization. Our mission is to appreciate, conserve and study Washington's huge diversity

of native plants and the habitats in which we and they thrive. We endeavor to bring you news and opportunities for involvement in such areas as our state's Garry oak and shrub-steppe habitats. We will also endeavor to expose you to the issues related to invasive species and the ways that all of us can have an impact (good or bad) on their eradication. As we continue in 2008 and 2009, I am most drawn to those little things that tell big stories and keep us all connected.

The more exposure I get to plants and places, the more I want to explore them. I hope you'll join me along the way. If it's an addiction, I think it's a good one!



"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

Rachel Carson

Salvage Program Activities

NPSA - Digs Pierce County

Funding for the continuation of the Native Plant Salvage Alliance serving Tacoma and Pierce County was awarded by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation in late July. Changes that will be evident this fall include the expansion of our plant-holding facilities to the Meadow Park Golf Course, as well as new team members who will be assisting with salvaging events, plant propagation and administration activities.

Join us for one or more of the following salvage program activities:

- Saturday, October 18, 9am -2pm - Salvage event
- Sunday, October 19, 1-3pm - Plant propagation
- Friday, October 31, 9am -2pm - Salvage event
- Sunday, November 16, 1-3pm - Plant propagation
- Saturday, November 29, 9am - 2pm - Salvage event
- Friday, December 12, 9am- 2pm, Plant propagation
- Saturday, December 13, 9am - 2pm - Salvage event
- Sunday, December 14, 1-3pm - Plant propagation

Volunteers who join us for salvage events are asked to dig on behalf of our plant recipients. Potential plant recipients include public and non-profit habitat restoration or public education projects in Tacoma, Fircrest, Lakewood, Milton, Puyallup, Steilacoom, Sumner, University Place and unincorporated Pierce County. After digging on behalf of plant recipients,

volunteers are invited to dig plants for their own projects. Volunteers assisting with propagation activities are also invited to take home one or two plants for every two hours of participation.

Prior to distribution, sites receiving plants are evaluated for their plant-readiness (weeds adequately removed and soils mulched). Limited site consulting is available to determine which plants are appropriate. Projects with strong planting and maintenance plans and dedicated volunteers to help do the work between October 2008 and March 2009 are typically given first consideration. In addition, recipients will want to consider how they will be able to transport the plants received. Lead time of 2-4 weeks is beneficial to the provision of plants already in stock. Lead time of 1-6 months or more may be required for procurement of specialty plants to be grown or supplied as seed, cuttings, or live stakes, or to be brokered at wholesale from nurseries.

For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, or plants currently available to organizations wishing to secure free plant materials, please check our website at www.ssstewardship.org. You can also find tips on the best/worst plants to salvage, propagation techniques, and salvaging techniques. If you still have questions, please contact the Native Plant Salvage Alliance contract coordinator, Anna Thurston at: 253-566-3342, or by e-mail at anna.thurston@sstewardship.org.

Native Plant Websites to Add to Your "Favorites"

We live in a rapidly and ever changing world where even the most vestigial of Luddites have had to learn a new vocabulary – such verbs as “to Google” and “to blog.” Today, the computer and the internet have opened a whole new world of information with a few keystrokes. With that in mind, here are a few suggestions.

Mark Turner, co-author of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*, now has the material from the book, 7000+ pictures and maps, on line at www.pnwflowers.com.

The WTU Image Collection contains the most comprehensive online collection of photographs and information for the plants and lichens of Washington. Developed and maintained by the University of Washington Herbarium, this site brings together images from numerous photographers and botanists from around the state. Photographs are accompanied by distribution maps, descriptions, synonymy, and additional resources. Visit that website at <http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php>.

Providing Washington citizens with tips about using native plants has long been a role of WNPS. Their interactive native plant herbarium will help you find native plants suitable for any niche in your western Washington garden or restoration project. Over 200 species of native plants are covered at www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/index.html.

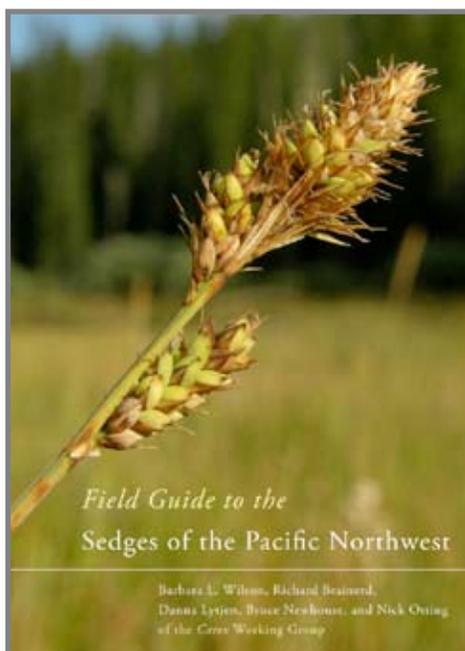
For plants native to California, the *Calflora* website is an amazing resource. Use of the site requires registration, but for non-professional users there is currently no fee required to access the website at www.calflora.org/species/index.html.

The Theodore Payne Foundation California Native Plant Library also has a wealth of material on California at www.theodorepayne.org/gallery/glossary.htm.

To the north, British Columbia has an excellent site, *E-Flora BC: An Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia*. This site may be accessed at www.eflora.bc.ca/.

For those with a more local interest, Donovan Tracy of the Central Puget Sound Chapter, has launched an interesting new website on the flowers of Mt. Rainier that you may enjoy at www.flowersofrainier.com.

Finally, for those interested in propagation, you may want to checkout the Native Plant Network's material on the University of Idaho website site at <http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/>. The Native Plant Network is devoted to the sharing of information on how to propagate native plants of North America (Canada, Mexico, and US). You may feel free to search the database for species in which you have interest. They ask that you also take the time to upload protocols of species you successfully grow using the Protocol Interface.



Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest The Carex Working Group

The Carex Working Group is pleased to announce the publication of the *Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest*. The book is an illustrated guide to all 164 species, subspecies, and varieties of *Carex* that occur in Oregon and Washington. It contains identification keys, descriptions, color photographs and distribution maps for each species, along with information about sedge ecology, habitat, and management. A more extensive review by Alan Yen will be included in the next issue of *Douglasia*.

The field guide is available at the University Bookstore in Seattle, Flora & Fauna, Elliott Bay, Oregon State University Bookstore, University of Oregon Bookstore, Powell's, and

Amazon.com among others. It is available by calling 800-426-3797 or by going to <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/e-f/FieldGuideSedges.html> and then clicking on "Secure online ordering form."

Local Attractions: Or Cheap Dates for a Botanist

With the spiraling costs of gasoline and other essentials, many of us have curtailed our travel but we still have that need to visit nature and enjoy some of our wonderful native flora. With those two items in mind, we have decided to feature some of our local botanical attractions with which you may not be familiar and at which, we hope, you can enjoy a low cost visit. We will include sites in both Pierce and Thurston Counties. You invited to send write ups of your favorite areas for future issues of the *Acorn*. These are just a taste.

Bresemann Forest (submitted by Bill Brookreson)

Bresemann Forest, a part of Pierce County Parks, is located along Military Rd. in Spanaway, west of the Sprinker Recreation Center. Bresemann Forest is approximately 70 naturally wooded acres featuring a network of pedestrian nature trails with a delightful native plant assembly. (So far, we have identified 42 native plant species as we have begun assembly of a plant list for the park – you can get it on the South Sound Chapter website, and help add to it.) Also, there are many bird species for the bird watcher. The park features Morey Creek with its wetland and woodland species. There are numerous plants of interest including a surprising number of Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) and, in early summer, a glorious display of ocean spray



(*Holodiscus discolor*). To really enjoy the forest, allow yourself at least an hour (preferably much more).

Like many of our parks, even with its wonderful native plant base, there are also problems with invasive species including knotweed, yellow flag iris, blackberry, English ivy and yellow archangel. Volunteers are always needed to help in restoration efforts. For more information, contact Kyle Wintermute at 253-798-4015.

Bresemann is a short drive from Tacoma. From I-5,

take exit 127 following the Mt. Rainier/Puyallup signs to Highway 512 going east. On Highway 512 take the second exit (Parkland/Spanaway-Pacific Ave) and at the stop light turn right onto Pacific Avenue (SR 7). Head south for 2.7 miles then turn right on Military Road (152nd St). Sprinker Center is 1-1/2 blocks down on the right. Go to the west side of the parking lot to enter the forest.



Natural Areas of Thurston County (submitted by Kevin Head)

Although Thurston County is one of the smallest counties in Western Washington at 727 square miles, it has a number of very nice natural areas for public use. Wildflowers bloom in the county from February through October, and beautiful foliage can be observed throughout the year. Our natural areas receive high use in the summer and are needed for the growing population. The following city and county owned natural areas have public access and need no further contact is needed.

Lacey City Parks Natural Areas

Lake Lois Park Habitat Preserve: .4 miles of unpaved trail leads through wetland, and wildlife abounds. Location: 6020 7th Avenue SE. Take Martin Way to Carpenter, turn right; or from Lacey Blvd. turn left onto Carpenter.

Olympia City Parks Natural Areas:

Garfield Nature Trails: .33 miles of unpaved, forested trail, by a seasonal creek. Location: 620 Rogers St. NW or 701 West Bay Dr. NW Access from Rogers St. between Conger and Madison or on West Bay Drive.

More Field Trips on the Next Page!

Field Trips continued...

Olympia Woodland Trail: 1.5 miles of paved road for bikes and hikers. Connects eastside to Chehalis/Western southern bike trail. Excellent second growth woodlands with \$400,000 grant to plant native plants. Location: 1600 Eastside St SE

Priest Point Park: 2.6 miles mixed surface trails. Mixed hardwood and conifer forest with some old growth trees (the only remaining ones in Thurston County). Trails extend throughout the forest and there are accesses to gravel beaches. Excellent fall foliage peeks in early November. Location: 2600 East Bay Drive

Watershed Park: 1.5 miles of mixed surface trail. Park has 153 acres of forest with many springs and Moxie Creek. Location: 2500 Henderson Blvd. SE (parking) -or- 2820 Henderson Blvd. SE (pedestrian), 1605 Eastside St. SE (pedestrian), 1201 22nd Ave. SE (pedestrian)

Tumwater City Parks Natural Areas

Kenneydell Park: 1 mile of forested trail leading to Black Lake. Location: 6745 Fairview Rd SW, Tumwater

Pioneer Park: 1.7 miles of mixed surface trails. Trails lead to Deschutes River and beach areas. Location is 5800 Henderson Blvd. South of Yelm Hwy.

Tumwater Hill Park: .75 unpaved trail. Trail leads through forest on hilly undeveloped park. Location: 3115 Ridgeview Ct. SW

Thurston County Parks

Burfoot Park: 3.8 miles of unpaved trail through second growth forest to a 1000-foot-long beach on Budd Inlet. Location: 6927 Boston Harbor Rd NE, 6 miles north of Olympia.

Frye Cove: 3 miles of unpaved trail leads to beautiful views of Mt Rainier on Eld Inlet. Location take Hwy 101 to Steamboat Island Rd. Go approximately 6 miles to the park.

Chehalis Western Trail, South: 14 miles paved for bikes, horses and hikers. Excellent wildlife areas around Chambers Lake and views of Mt. Rainier. Nice rural land trail. Location: Trailhead parking off Fones Road in the Chambers Lake Boat Launch.

WNPS State News

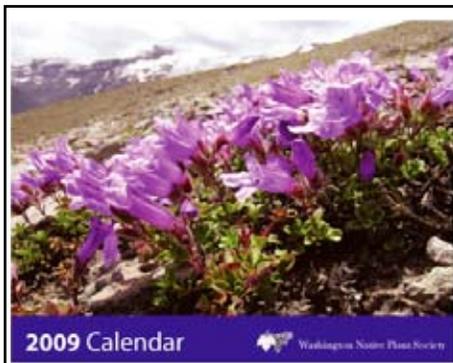
The 2009 WNPS Photo Calendar is Available

If you are one of those people who never tire of gazing at a gorgeous plant, we've got the perfect way to indulge your fancy. From the first glimpse of the purple trumpet flowers of *Davidson's penstemon* perched on alpine rocks to the peculiar hemi-parasitic plant known as Thompson's paintbrush, the 2009 WNPS Photo Calendar will enthrall you with Washington's botanical beauty. Featuring photos taken by Society members, the calendar will remind you year-round of the special plants Washington has to offer the wildflower enthusiast. In addition, each month the calendar has smaller inset photos, includes dates of interest to those who are botanically inclined, and gives food for thought in the text which accompanies the featured image. Photos featured for this calendar produced by the Society were selected from over 100 images that were submitted by WNPS members.

You can support the conservation work of the Society and its efforts to educate others about the value of preserving native plant species, which are critical to the health of Washington's natural resources and quality of life. Buy one for yourself and some for people on your gift list. Calendars may be purchased at chapter meetings this Fall, you may buy online with a credit card at www.wnps.org or send in the order form found below.

Each calendar is \$10.00, plus \$2.00 for shipping.

WNPS CALENDAR ORDER FORM



Please send me the 2009 WNPS Photo Calendar # _____ X \$10 = _____	
Shipping costs enclosed (Expect delivery within 2 weeks.)	\$ 2.00
TOTAL _____	
MAIL ORDER FORM TO:	
Name _____	WNPS
Address _____	6310 NE 74th St., Ste. 215E
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Seattle, WA 98115

Workshops and Conferences

Monthly Trainings in Tacoma Target Restoration Volunteers

City of Tacoma Make a Splash grant funds were awarded to the Green Tacoma Partnership to implement monthly training programs to help educate residents and restoration volunteers protect and restore local surface water resources. Three training days have been scheduled consisting of half-day discussion, and half-day site tours highlighting restoration activities that benefit salmon through various approaches used by GTP partners. Although geared to meet the needs of GTP members, all sessions are free and open to the public.

South Sound Activity

Native Plant Study Weekend

Native Plant Study Weekend 2008, May 2-4, sponsored by the South Sound chapter was a resounding success. The Black Lake Bible Camp provided an excellent facility and excellent food for our 109 attendees. We enjoyed a good mix of four excellent speakers and field trips to 13 different locations, enjoying the wonderful flora of the South Sound prairies. Special thanks go out to Pat and Dan Montague for their handling of all the registration details; Rod Gilbert for arranging the speakers and field trips; Reba Olsen for handling the name tags; and Helen Hepp, Charlie Heebner, June Coloff, and Kevin Head for all their assistance. Most of all, thanks to the members who made for a weekend of learning, fun and fellowship.

Thanks to Bill Brookreson and Betty Swift for the photos taken at the WNPS Study Weekend and used in the special two-page spread and the great photo on the mailing panel as well.

Friday, October 10

Puget Creek Restoration Society Holistic Ecological Program Planning & Development

Learn about non-profit restoration program development and implementation. A panel will discuss program drivers, ADA (American With Disabilities Act) and youth audiences, permitting and other obstacles, as well as board development and program implementation over time. A site tour at Puget Creek will highlight a variety of habitats, focal areas of the site where volunteer efforts are evident (and not so evident), and methods applied to enhance the stream's ability to welcome the return of salmon species.

Friday, November 7 - Tacoma Nature Center Youth Education Efforts Emphasizing Watersheds and Water Quality

This session will explore how organizations can effectively engage youth in learning about nature. Presentations and discussion will address curricula that targets youths in grades 4 through 12 and focus on the education about watershed and water quality issues through hands-on field investigations. Classroom work and a guided trail hike are included. An associated site tour will continue the theme of hands-on field investigations with the exploration of a coastal and upland wetland habitats plus comparative water quality sampling.

Friday, December 12 - Citizens for a Healthy Bay Tidal Habitat Restoration, Advocacy, Education & Volunteer Recruitment

CHB's unique advocacy, education, restoration and hands-on programs, which help clean, protect and restore nearly 610 acres of marine and coastal habitat, will be highlighted. Panel discussions will examine the history and future of local estuarial restoration while exploring the importance of ecosystem-based planning and invasive plant control. Participants will learn about the affect of storm drain stenciling on reduction of storm water pollution, and how the CHB's Bay Patrol Program advocates with state and city agencies, as well as the marine industry for clean water. Field activities will invite participants to engage in hands-on restoration activities including native plant installation and invasive plant removal.

The GTP is one of nine recipients being funded by the City of Tacoma in 2008. Please visit the GTP website at: <http://www.cascadeland.org/stewardship/green-cities/green-tacoma-partnership-1> to obtain a registration form. For more information, please contact Krystal Kyer at 253-232-9978 or by e-mail at kkyer@tahomaaudubon.org.

***Color printing of the Native Plant Study Weekend pictures
is provided by the generosity of Lee Fellenberg.***



Black Lake Bible Camp



Dodecatheon pulchellum, Shooting Star



Ted Thomas speaks on Golden Paintbrush



Viewing a Flood Ravaged Site



Fort Lewis Field Trip



Mark Turner's photography field trip



Fritillera affinis



Camassia quamash



Mark Turner at work



Trillium albidum on Ft. Lewis



Rain, Rain... Go Away

South Sound Chapter Meeting Calendar, October 2008 – January 2009

Meeting Times and Locations:

We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our fall meetings. Chapter gatherings are normally scheduled on the second Monday of each month (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma) and are held from 7–9 p.m. October through May. Meetings consist of a quick review of local items and announcements and a presentation lasting approximately an hour. Programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted, all Tacoma meetings are at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. All Olympia meetings are at Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia. All meetings are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 (Tacoma) Brett Johnson **Saving the Earth, One Habitat Garden at a Time**

Native plant steward, Brett Johnson returns to the Tacoma Nature Center with his “trunk show.” So what the heck is a trunk show? Is Brett going to spend an hour talking about tree trunks? Not exactly. The “trunk show” is a program in which Brett piles a table or two (or three or four ...) with plants. As he talks about native plants and why you should choose natives over exotics, Brett lifts examples from his collection, talking about each one and fielding any questions from the audience. Brett is the owner of Green Man Gardens and co-author of several short books on gardening for wildlife in western Washington.

Monday, Oct. 13 (Olympia) Sarah Gage **The Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**

Washington State is home to exceptionally rich and varied natural environments, from the fertile soils of the Palouse to the diverse marine life of Puget Sound. Yet, as the state’s population soars, Washington is experiencing a dramatic decline in native biodiversity. The Washington Biodiversity Council, chartered by the Governor, has worked with many different partners to create the Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The strategy builds on the state’s existing strengths as well as outlining actions and programs to engage Washingtonians in conserving our state’s precious natural legacy. At the core of the strategy is the belief that public, private, and nonprofit entities need to work together to achieve a widely shared vision. Sarah Gage is the senior project associate for the Washington Biodiversity Council. From 1988-2001, she managed the University of Washington Herbarium, and she participated in six expeditions to the Russian Far East and numerous botanical forays throughout the Northwest. She served as WNPS statewide president from 1994-1995.

Monday, Nov. 10 (Olympia) Ben Alexander **Shoreline Stabilization Using Native Plants**

Plants were used for centuries to stabilize eroding shorelines, until modern engineering gave us concrete bulkheads and rock gabions. Public concern about salmon habitat has shifted development away from building bulkheads and sparked renewed interest in restoring native plants along shorelines. This presentation will demonstrate how native vegetation can be used instead of concrete and rock to stabilize slopes and re-vegetate shorelines, using a variety of techniques such as live staking, live crib walls, and vegetated geo-grids. Examples will be drawn from several projects installed in the South Sound area over the past 15 years. Ben Alexander is the co-owner of Sound Native Plants, an Olympia-based ecological restoration company, and he has over 20 years of practical experience planning and implementing revegetation projects.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 (Tacoma) Dr. Katherine Glew **Lichens Around Puget Sound**

This talk will provide basic information about lichens and common species found around the Puget Sound area. Katherine Glew, Ph.D. is Curatorial Associate of Lichens at the University of Washington Herbarium, Burke Museum. She manages historic collections and processes lichens from the Pacific Northwest and Russian Far East. In addition to assisting with lichen curation, research interests include alpine lichen community structure on Mount Rainier, Olympic National Park and North Cascades, and lichens found on the smaller islands in Washington’s San Juan Archipelago. She also has projects examining lichen succession on Mt. St. Helens after the 1980 eruption, and frost boils in Alaska’s arctic tundra. She is actively involved with conservation in the lichenological community. Katherine is the Program Organizer for the Visit Biology Program in the Department

of Biology, funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to offer opportunities for students and teachers to be involved with research projects in the UW Biology Department. Katherine heads a lichen study group, meeting weekly at the university. She is on the board of the American Bryological and

Lichenological Society, Northwest Scientific Association, and vice president of Northwest Lichenologists.

Monday, December 8 (Olympia) Wendy Gibble Conservation of Washington's Rare and Imperiled Plants

Washington's native plant species are being threatened by rapidly growing human population, invasive species, and changes brought on by global warming. Approximately 15 percent of the state's native flora is considered to be sensitive, threatened, or endangered, and vulnerable to decline or extirpation. Some of these species occur nowhere else in the world, and very little is known about their life history and habitat requirements. State and federal laws protecting these plants are minimal, and severe reductions in government spending on botanic surveys and full-time botanist positions hinder our ability to understand the current distribution and status of rare plant populations and what is needed to protect them. The Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program (Rare Care) partners with state and federal agencies to conserve rare plants across the state by monitoring rare plant populations, collecting and storing seeds in a seed vault, and conducting research on rare plant species. Rare Care is the only organization solely dedicated to conserving Washington's rare plants. Wendy Gibble serves as the Program Manager for the Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program.

Wednesday, December 10 (Tacoma) David Giblin

The University of Washington Herbarium: Field Work and Online Database Projects

The University of Washington Herbarium actively documents the distribution and diversity of the Pacific Northwest flora through field collecting trips each year. Herbarium Collections Manager David Giblin will provide an overview of the past year's field work that included trips to the San Juan Islands, Columbia River Basin, the Pasayten Wilderness, and North Cascades National Park. David will also discuss the various online tools that the UW Herbarium staff and faculty have developed over the last several years to enhance access to the collections. David Giblin has been the UW Herbarium Collections Manager since 2002. Each year he leads a dozen or more collecting trips that increase the knowledge of the Pacific Northwest flora and expand the Herbarium's collections. His research interests include plant biogeography of the San Juan Islands, floristics of Washington State, and aquatic plants.

Monday, January 12 (Olympia) Inger Schmidt-Gruhn, Lisa Randolph & Mary Chramiec Managing Our Military Training Lands

Inger Gruhn, Lisa Randolph, and Mary Chramiec will discuss natural resource stewardship at Fort Lewis. This approximately 86,200-acre military reservation is located in western Washington and is a major military facility for both weapons qualifications and field training. Significant land uses within the Fort Lewis boundary fall into two principal areas: the cantonment area (approximately 9,100 acres), and training areas (approximately 76,900 acres). The Integrated Training Areas Management (ITAM) program is the Army's comprehensive approach to land management. Based on the integration of military mission, natural resource stewardship, and environmental compliance, ITAM provides for the maintenance of Army training land in order to ensure quality training and realism, reduce environmental damage, and enhance the public image of the Army as a conscientious land steward. Inger Gruhn, Lisa Randolph, and Mary Chramiec all earned degrees from The Evergreen State College. Out of college, they worked on Fort Lewis collecting natural resource data. Now, they play a role in managing the ITAM program. They have a combined 36 years of experience of sustaining the training lands on Fort Lewis.

Wednesday, January 14 (Tacoma).

Potluck meeting. Bring a favorite dish to share, along with plates and eating utensils and your family and/or significant others. Members are invited to share some of their favorite slides, digital images, books and other nature experiences.

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www.wnps.org 206-527-3210



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Chapter Affiliation

- Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
 - Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
 - Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
 - Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)
 - NE Washington (Spokane)
 - Okanogan
 - Olympic Peninsula
 - Salal (Mt Vernon, Skagit Valley)
 - San Juan Islands
 - South Sound (Olympia, Tacoma)
 - Wenatchee Valley
 - At-Large
 - Palouse (inactive)
 - Suksdorfia (inactive)
- Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$.00 for each additional chapter.

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- \$1,000 WNPS Sustaining
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 Additional Chapters (\$5 each) _____
 \$8 for each poster (\$6 members) _____
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 TOTAL \$ _____

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South Sound Chapter WNPS

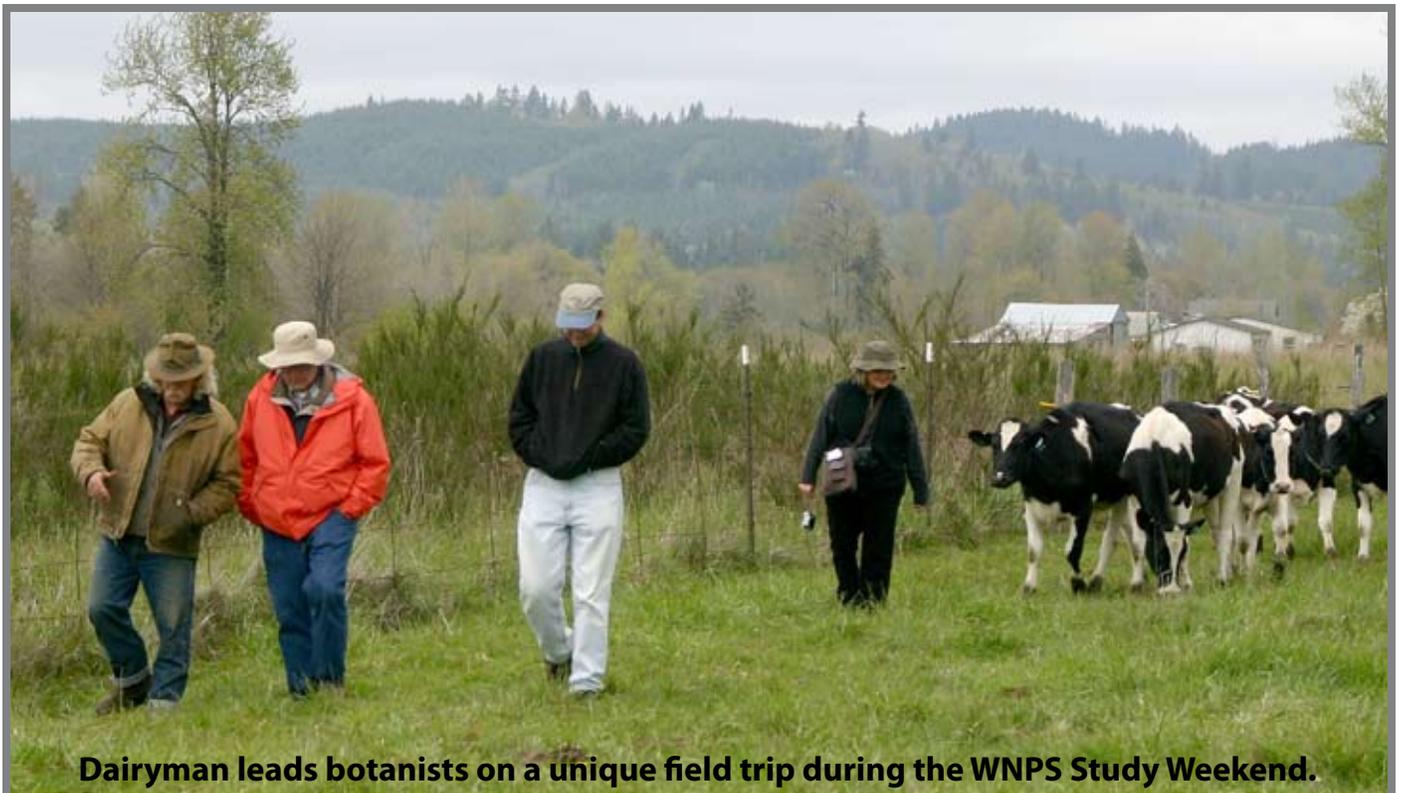
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Tacoma WA 98407-2119



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The mission of the Washington Native Plant Society is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.



Dairyman leads botanists on a unique field trip during the WNPS Study Weekend.